Study Online with Open Christian University and Earn a State-licensed Qualification from California, USA

What is the New Age Movement?

Sixbert SANGWA • August 12, 2024

As Christians, it is crucial to remain vigilant and discerning in the face of various spiritual movements that may appear benign or even beneficial on the surface but harbor deeper, more clandestine plans. One such movement is the New Age Movement, a broad and diverse spiritual and philosophical trend that began in the late 20th century. This movement is characterized by an eclectic approach to spirituality, drawing on a wide range of religious and philosophical traditions, including Eastern religions like Buddhism and Hinduism, Western esotericism, and various forms of mysticism and metaphysics. The New Age Movement seeks to create a spirituality without borders or confining dogmas, promoting a global transformation of consciousness.

The expression *"New Age"* came into existence in the 1970s and 1980s, promoted by the circulation of the New Age Journal and a book by Mark Satin called New Age Politics. Marilyn Ferguson's best-selling Aquarian Conspiracy presented the social agenda and philosophical vision of the New Age, earning an unofficial status as the movement's scripture. Prominent figures like Shirley MacLaine chronicled their conversion to New Age beliefs, describing experiences such as out-of-body travel, contact with extraterrestrial beings, and various mystical practices.

Alice Bailey, a prominent theosophist and writer, is credited with coining the term *"New Age."* Along with her husband, Foster Bailey, she developed teachings that laid the groundwork for the movement. Bailey's writings emphasized a new era of spiritual awakening that would transcend traditional religious boundaries and promote universal spirituality. However, beneath this seemingly inclusive and enlightened vision lies a more concerning agenda that Christians should be aware of.

The New Age Movement often emphasizes personal spiritual growth, holistic health, and a deep connection with the universe. Practices such as meditation, yoga, energy healing, and the use of crystals are commonly promoted. While these practices may seem harmless or even beneficial, they often divert individuals from the worship of the one true God and lead them towards self-divinity and spiritual deception. The Bible warns against such practices in Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

New Age thinking has its roots in Eastern mysticism, which attempts to bypass the mind, promoting the idea that the mind can create reality. Neil Anderson, in his book Walking Through the Darkness, describes the New Age movement as a new way to think and understand reality, appealing to those disillusioned with organized religion and Western rationalism. Anderson summarizes New Age thinking with several key beliefs:

1. **Monism**: The idea that everything is one and one is everything, viewing history as a descent into ignorance and a gradual climb towards enlightenment.
2. **Pantheism**: The belief that all is God, where trees, snails, books, and people share one divine essence, rejecting the personal God of the Bible.
3. **Change in Consciousness**: The belief that realizing one's divinity leads to cosmic consciousness or enlightenment, often seen as a counterfeit of biblical conversion.
4. **Cosmic Evolutionary Optimism**: The vision of a New Age with a New World Order and government considered a counterfeit kingdom led by Satan.
5. **Creation of Reality**: The belief that one can create reality through their beliefs, erasing moral boundaries and distinctions between good and evil.
6. **Contact with Dark Spiritual Forces**: The involvement with dark spiritual forces, opposing the biblical God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Moreover, the New Age Movement has significant connections with the concept of the New World Order, a sinister global agenda aimed at establishing a unified world government and religion. This aligns with the New Age Movement's emphasis on universal spirituality and breaking down traditional religious distinctions. Alice Bailey herself spoke of the need for a new world religion to unite humanity under a single spiritual framework.

From a Christian perspective, it is essential to approach the New Age Movement and the New World Order with discernment and a firm grounding in biblical truth. The Bible warns us to be vigilant against teachings that divert us from the worship of God and lead us towards spiritual deception. In John 14:6, Jesus declared, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* This verse underscores the exclusivity of Christ as the only path to God and the importance of remaining rooted in His teachings.

The New Age Movement's promotion of self-divinity and the idea that individuals can achieve god-like status through personal spiritual enlightenment contradicts the core Christian belief that salvation and spiritual growth come through faith in Jesus Christ alone. The Bible warns us in 1 Timothy 4:1 that some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits.

In conclusion, it is essential for Christians to critically assess the teachings and practices of the New Age Movement in light of biblical truth. Although this movement promises personal growth and spiritual enlightenment, it often entices individuals with the deceptive notion that they are divine and can improve their lives through their own efforts. However, we must remember that humans are finite and can never attain divinity. We require someone greater than ourselves to grant us forgiveness and eternal life.
Jesus Christ, through His death and resurrection, has provided exactly what we need: forgiveness from God, a purposeful and meaningful life, and the promise of eternal life beyond the grave. Understanding and embracing who Jesus Christ is and what He has accomplished is crucial. Reading John chapter 3 and inviting Christ to be your Savior can transform your life, giving you clarity about your identity, purpose, and destiny.

Furthermore, it is important to recognize that the New Age Movement is often associated with the concept of the New World Order, which seeks to establish a unified world government and religion under a global ruler, as foretold in biblical prophecy regarding the Antichrist. By discerning these connections and remaining grounded in the teachings of the Bible, Christians can safeguard their faith from deceptive beliefs that lead away from the one true God.

Let us continually seek wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit as we navigate the complex spiritual landscape of our world today. Stay vigilant, be discerning, and remain steadfast in your faith.

Related Articles

- What's Really Project 2025 and Who Is Behind It?
- Is the Emerging New World Order Fulfilling Biblical Prophecy?
- What Role Does Generation Z and Alpha Play in the End Times?
- Why Should Christians Be Careful About Their Spiritual Associations?
- Is the One-World Religion an Apostate Feature of the End Times Scenario?
- Who is the Antichrist: the second person in Satan's unholy trinity of the end times?
- What Is the True World Hierarchy and How Does It Cooperate for the New World Order?

Further Resources

- Explore Online Ministry Opportunities at Open Christian Ministries (USA)
- Explore Christian Business Services at the Center for Faith and Work (Rwanda)
- Pursue an Affordable Online Christian Degree at Open Christian University (USA)
- Kindly Share Your Question for Consideration in Future Articles. Click Here to Submit
- Ask a Question or Utilize Our Trained AI Bot to Craft Your Evangelical Article - Begin Here

← Back to blog

Comments (0)

Post Comment